

Indiana State Department of Health **LONG TERM CARE** **NEWSLETTER**

**ISDH Long Term Care
Newsletter Issue # 08-17
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Disaster Related Illnesses

The ISDH was requested to provide information on flood related illnesses. Here are two Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web sites that might be useful tools. These are directed more towards the general public than health care providers.

There is a Fact Sheet on the CDC website. It is found at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/pdf/recovery.pdf>

In the same area are many other links to preventing potential problems after natural disasters. The site is found at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/disease/>

The ISDH is working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and CDC to identify any additional available information on flood related illnesses.

CMS Announces Plans to Improve Nursing Home Compare Web Site

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it will launch a ranking system of America's nursing homes, giving each a "star" rating. CMS is requesting comments on the system designed to provide patients and their families an easy to understand assessment of nursing home quality, making meaningful distinctions between high performing and low performing homes. The ratings will be posted on the agency's Nursing Home Compare Web site by the end of this year.

An overview of the plan may be found on the CMS Web site at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/ImprovingNHCompare.pdf>.

CMS Survey and Certification Letter on Preparedness

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released [Survey and Certification Letter 08-27](#) pertaining to Iowa and Indiana flooding disasters. The letter provides information about the current situation and its effect on certification requirements.

CMS Releases Survey and Certification Letter on Nutrition and Sanitary Conditions [F325 and F371]

CMS has announced that revised surveyor guidance for surveying Nutrition and Sanitary Conditions requirements in long term care facilities will become effective on September 1, 2008. At that time, a final copy of this new guidance will be available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/> and ultimately incorporated into Appendix PP of the State Operations Manual. Corresponding Automated Survey Process Environment (ASPEN) changes are expected to be in place by the end of August.

On June 20, 2008, CMS released [Survey and Certification Letter 08-28](#) announcing the revised guidance. CMS also provided [surveyor interpretive guidelines for F325](#) and [surveyor interpretive guidelines for F371](#).

Alzheimer's In-Service Resource

From time to time, the ISDH becomes aware of resources that might be useful to long term care providers and passes along that information. This is not an endorsement of those products or services. The ISDH has not reviewed those products for content or effectiveness.

The ISDH received information about a company providing Alzheimer's training materials. Senior Living University is a company specializing in training materials for senior living communities. Training materials and DVDs are available. Their Web site includes a couple of free downloadable Alzheimer's In-Service Programs. The Senior Living University Web site is located at <http://www.seniorlivingu.com/>.



That is all for this week. Have a safe and happy Independence Day.

Terry Whitson
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